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ADVERTISER FARM & HOME HOUR

WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS

EPISODE # 409
OKCHICAGO OUTLET WMAQ BLUE
11:30-12:30 PM

(TIME)

(OCTOBER 25, 1940)

DATE

(FRIDAY)

DAY

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

1. ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers

2. MUSIC: Ranger Song.

3. ANNOUNCER: In the land-hungry days of our pioneer development,

4. it was believed that vast areas of cut-over lands

5. which had produced such thick stands of great trees would also be

6. productive of rich harvests of grain, hay or other cultivated crops.

7. Today, it is realized that much of this land is primarily suited only

8. to growing trees, and millions of acres of cut-over lands lie wasting and

9. tax delinquent, with scattered, stranded families who once so hopefully

10. established farms on these lands now eking out the barest kind of a

11. living. As a result of these mistakes of the past, the United States

12. Forest Service, working in cooperation with other agencies of the

13. Department of Agriculture, and with counties, States and private forest

14. owners, is engaged in a tremendous task of reclamation. Not only must

15. the devastated lands be rebuilt and brought back into useful production

16. again but new opportunities must be created to rebuild hope and faith

17. in the stranded cut-over land people. Today the full productivity of

18. all American land and all American people is urgently needed for the full

19. assertion of America's strength and independence among the world's

20. nations.

21. (MORE)

22.

23.

24.

25.

ANNOUNCER:(CONT.) Well now to look in on Ranger Jim Robbins and the rest of our friends out on the Pine Cone National Forest. Today we find Jim and his assistant ranger, Jerry Quick, in their pick-up on the way to visit Bill Brown, who has made a losing fight trying to make a living on a submarginal cut-over land farm. Last week, as you remember, Jim figured out a plan that he hoped would give Brown a chance to make a new start in life. Here's Jim and Jerry now.

SOUND OF CAR IN MOTION ON MUDDY ROAD BACK

JERRY: By George, Jim, of all days I can't see why you had to pick a day like this to come up here to see Bill Brown. If we don't get stuck in these ruts with all this rain it'll be a miracle.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Just a little psychology, Jerry. I sorta figure all this mud and rain may help make Bill see what I want him to see. It's the only way I can figure out to help Bill get a new start.

JERRY: Well, you got the county commissioners to agree to an exchange of land all right, but gettin' Bill Brown to agree to swappin' his stump ranch up here for that piece of national forest bottom land down there on Willow Creek is somethin' else again.

JIM: Well-sir Jerry, I know it's going to be hard getting Bill to pull up stakes here and start over again, even though it will be on better land...but if anything can make him do it, it's gonna be that little girl of his.

JERRY: Mary was tellin' me the little kid hasn't been to school for a week or more. It must be tough on a little tyke like that tryin' to get to school from way back in here. It's a two mile hike from the busted bridge to the Brown farm -- that makes four miles a day -- and Mary said the little kid didn't even have overshoes. Comes in with her feet wet every morning... Since she hasn't been to school Mary thought she might have caught cold or something and couldn't come. But after seein' these roads it looks to me like just a case of the school bus not bein' able to get in here even up to the bridge.

JIM: Uh huh. It's things like that I'm kinda countin' on to help Bill make up his mind, Jerry.

JERRY: Well, here we are at the bridge. (SOUND OF CAR PULLING UP) From here on it's through the mud on foot. (FADING) And the rain's still comin' down.

MUSIC UP AND OUT

JIM: (FADING IN) Pretty sorry lookin' layout, eh Jerry?

JERRY: I'll say. Look at the soil washin' down off that field up there on the sidehill. The water in this creek's as thick as soup.

JIM: Uh huh. This is the creek the Browns get their drinkin' water out of too.

SOUND OF HAMMERING ON ANVIL IN DISTANCE

JERRY: That must be Bill workin' on something down there in the barn...or what used to be the barn. It's pretty run down, isn't it, Jim?

JIM: Uh huh. Let's go on down there. (FADING) That'll be as good a place to talk to Bill as any.

SLIGHT PAUSE

FADE IN SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS SLOPPING ALONG IN MUD

SOUND OF HAMMERING ON ANVIL CLOSER

JIM: (CALLS) Hey! Anybody home here?

HAMMERING STOPS ABRUPTLY

BROWN: (COMING ON) Hey, you fella's like to scared me to death. Jim Robbins!

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Howdy Bill.

JERRY: Hi Bill.

BROWN: What in tarnation are you and Jerry doin' up here on a day like this, Jim? If I had me a good government job like you fellers I'd be settin' down there in that nice warm ranger station toastin' my shins...Come on in outa the confounded rain.

JIM: All right, Bill.

BROWN: D'juh ever see such rain? They's a few places in here where the roof ain't leaked yet. Come on in and make yourselves to home here. Reckon the barn's as good a meetin' place as the house. The house roof's been leakin' too.

JIM: Looks like it needs a little repair work, Bill.

BROWN: U-m-m. Yep, Jim. Time was when they were the finest buildin's in the neighborhood, Jim. And not so long ago either. But I tell you Jim, these're hard times. And I don't no -- nothin' seems worth worryin' about much anymore anyhow. I ain't old yet, but I sure feel old sometimes.

JIM: Uh huh. I can understand how it is, Bill.

BROWN: I tell you Jim, it wasn't so bad 'till the Millers pulled up and left their old place over there. I hear tell Bert Miller's doin' right well. Started all over again down below somewhere and doin' right well.

JIM: Yep, last time I saw Bert he was askin' about you. Wanted to know how you were gettin' along. Said he and his family wanted to come up and see you but didn't figure they could get up the road.

BROWN: No, the county can't afford to keep up the road up in here no more with just me left in here to use it. I been meanin' to fix it up some myself and bridge too, but somehow or other it just doesn't seem worth the time...It's hard on Judy too...Judy's my little girl...she has to walk clean down there to the bridge to get to school...I don't know. She's sorta laid up now. Got her feet wet and caught a bad cold. The missus is right worried about her...and me too. But we ain't got no telephone and we ain't got money to call in a doctor even if we had a phone.

JERRY: Say, I'm sorry to hear about Judy. Mary...that is Miss Holloway, Judy's teacher...she wanted me to ask about her.

JIM: Well, Bill, there's no use to beat around the bush. What I came up here for is to see if I couldn't get you to move out of here. I've got a proposition worked out that oughta give you a chance to have a better farm, and at the same time help us round out the national forest.

BROWN: Jim, you know the only kind of proposition I'm interested in. I've set my askin' price on this here piece of land and I'm gonna stick to it. I know it's the only piece of private land in this part of the national forest, and sooner or later you're gonna come around to payin' my price. You've bought the Miller land next to me and if I just set here long enough...

JIM: If you sit here long enough, Bill, the county's gonna take your land over for taxes and you won't get anything. The Forest Service can't pay what you're asking for this land Bill...and neither can anyone else. It's more than it's worth on a fair appraisal. This land's worn out and needs to be put back in trees.

BROWN: I guess it is about wore out, all right.

JIM: But I'm not up here trying to buy your land today anyhow Bill. I came up here this time to make you a trade... Down there in the bottom on Willow Creek there's a good level piece of agricultural land inside the national forest boundary that would make you a good living. That land ought to be farmed, and this land ought to be in forest.

BROWN: Nope Jim. Nope. I ain't interested. I reckon I'll just set here and try to hold on.

JIM: But Bill, listen, that piece of land is right next to a good all weather road. It's on a telephone line and it's...

BROWN: Don't make no difference, Jim. I...wait a minute, wasn't that my wife calling?

JIM: I didn't hear anything.

BROWN: I think it was - I better go see anyhow - (GOING OFF)
You fellers wait a minute here.

JERRY: Well Jim, you see how far you got. I told you it wouldn't do any good to...

JIM: We've got to do something to help Bill out, Jerry. He hasn't got a chance here on this land. (AD LIE TO BROWN)

BROWN: (COMING ON) Say Jim, that little kid of Mine's right bad off. I'm afraid maybe...Would you come in and take a look...

JIM: Why sure, Bill. (GOING OFF) I don't know as I can do much but I'll be glad to go in and see what I can do.

JERRY: (CALLS) I'll wait out here, Jim.

JIM: (OFF) Okay, Jerry.

SLIGHT PAUSE

JIM: (COMING ON) Jerry, that little kid's got to have a doctor quick.

JERRY: What is it, Jim?

JIM: I don't know, but she's practically burnin' up and can't hardly get her breath. Let's see...no telephone...

JERRY: No, the nearest one's close to three miles from here.

JIM: H-m-m-m. Didn't I see some horses...

JERRY: Yeah. There's two of 'em right out back of the barn.
Jim. I'll catch 'em up and go down and call
Mrs. Robbins and have her get ahold of Doc Peters...

JIM: Okay Jerry. Go ahead. (GOING OFF) I'll go back in there.

MUSIC UP AND OUT

SOUND OF HORSES SLOPPING THROUGH MUD BEING PULLED IN FROM A RUN

JERRY: Whoa.

DOC PETERS: Whoa.

JERRY: Go on Doc. Go on in. I'll take care of your horses.

DOC PETERS: H-m-m. Call it a horse if you want to, Jerry.

(FADING) I'd call it an old bag of bones.

SLIGHT PAUSE

SOUND OF RAIN DRIPPING OFF ROOF BACK

JERRY: (FADING IN) Hey, what's the Doc got to say, Jim? How's the
little girl?

JIM: (COMING ON) I don't know, Jerry. It looks pretty bad.

JERRY: You mean...you mean it's really that bad.

JIM: Yeah. Doc told me it's nip and tuck right now. Poor
little kid...hasn't had the right kind of food...layin'
in there in that damp old room.

JERRY: Mrs. Robbins wanted to come with the doctor but I
told her there was nothing she could do right now and
no way to get her up here anyhow.

JIM: Nope. There's nothin' Bess can do...nothin' anybody can do now. Doc finally put her to sleep and he's sittin' in there watchin' her. Says there isn't anything to do but wait.

JERRY: Dawgonit Jim. It's not fair. That little kid hasn't even had a chance.

JIM: Nope. That's the way it goes, Jerry. When the land suffers, the people suffer too.

JERRY: Uh huh. I know that's what you've always said.

PAUSE - SOUND OF RAIN DRIPPING UP

JERRY: Look, Jim. Here comes Doc Peters and Bill now. The way Doc's got his head down...

JIM: Uh huh.

BROWN: (COMING ON) Doc, you know I haven't got anything to pay you and I don't know how I can ever thank you...

DOCTOR: (GRUMPY) I didn't come up here to get paid. I came up here on account of that little girl. If you want to thank somebody don't thank me, thank Jim and Jerry here for gettin' me up here.

JIM: How is she, Doc?

DOCTOR: She ought to be in a hospital, Jim. If there was any way under the sun of gettin' her out of here...

JIM: Is the crisis past?

DOCTOR: Uh huh. She's got a chance to pull through if we can get some proper food and some warm blankets and ...

1. JIM: You make out the list of what's needed and I'll take care
2. of that.
3. DOCTOR: Well, come on if you're goin'. (FADING) I've got to get
4. back to town.
5. BROWN: Say Jim...
6. JIM: Yes, Bill...?
7. BROWN: Jim, this here thing's made me do some thinkin'
8. I could hang on here, but I can't keep that little girl
9. a mine up in here. I guess you're right about movin',
10. Jim. (FADING) You go ahead and make out the papers
11. for that land exchange and as soon as this is over
12. we'll move down to that other piece of land.
13. MUSIC: FINALE
14. ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each Friday on
15. the National Farm and Home Hour as a presentation of the
16. National Broadcasting Company with the cooperation of
17. the United States Forest Service.
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23. bm/1:00
24. 10/23/40
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